

REMARKS

The amendments to claim 21 now provide the requested antecedent and a reference back to it, as requested in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Claim 21 should now be in allowable condition. Claims 2 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form to secure allowance of claims 2 and 4-20, as indicated in paragraph 6 of the Office Action.

Claim 1 has been rejected as anticipated in view of Hawkins '673 and Stokley '952. Figures 3 and 4 of Hawkins are illustrative of the difference between Hawkins and claim 1. In Hawkins Figure 4 the seal assembly featuring cup seal 29 must be shoved into the tubular beyond the upper coupling (which is unnumbered in both Figures). It is only when the seal is shoved in beyond the coupling that the spring 25 is compressed due to resistance of the cup seal on the internal wall of the tubular 32. The relative movement that then occurs when mandrel 23 advances exposes the ports 19d, as shown in Figure 4. What Hawkins lacks and claim 1 includes is a telescoping feature to selectively allow sealing contact adjacent the thread in the upset or coupling at the end of a tubular. In Hawkins, the contact is first made beyond the upset or coupling. Then, by virtue of such contact, the relative movement begins. Hawkins lacks a seal that can effectively seal in the annular area adjacent a thread in a coupling or upset on the tubular. It also lacks a telescoping feature to selectively cause sealing contact. Instead, it relies on sealing contact that already exists to make relative movement between the mandrel and seal possible.

Stokley has a telescoping feature but uses an inflatable seal that is not operative in the annular space adjacent the thread in an upset or coupling on the tubular. As shown in

Figures 3 and 7, Stokley's seal has to descend below the coupling C to make sealing contact. Because it is an inflatable it has sufficient height that precludes it from getting a sealing grip near the thread. If it were to try to seal in the coupling or upset near the threads, it would wind up straddling the threads and would likely get punctured by the threads when inflated.

Claims 1 and 3 are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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